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The situation in the Middle East**

**Security Council
Fifty-fifth year**

**Letter dated 22 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of
Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, when the Israeli forces and their client militia had withdrawn from certain villages in south Lebanon and the villagers were returning to inspect their homes, Israeli helicopters and tanks opened fire on those civilians. Preliminary reports indicate that six persons were killed and 22 injured.

This fresh attack clearly demonstrates Israel's intentions and its determination to pursue its policy of targeting defenceless civilians. It also shows that Israel is intent on the scorched earth policy which it has repeatedly threatened to implement in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, every international and humanitarian convention and norm and the terms of the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire understanding of 26 April 1996.

Lebanon urges the United Nations to take all the measures provided for in its Charter to prevent Israel from carrying out attacks and ensure that there is no repetition of such an attack as the one described above, in order to allow villagers to return to their homes.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Selim Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

